

# LONGMONT WATER BOARD AGENDA

Monday, November 17, 2014

Service Center  
1100 South Sherman Street  
Longmont, CO 80501

3:00 p.m. – Water/Wastewater Large Conference Room

## MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

1. ROLL CALL
2. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MONTH'S MINUTES
  - a. October 20, 2014 – Water Board Regular Meeting
3. WATER STATUS REPORT
4. PUBLIC INVITED TO BE HEARD AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS
5. AGENDA REVISIONS AND SUBMISSION OF DOCUMENTS
6. DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY
7. GENERAL BUSINESS
8. ITEMS FROM STAFF
  - a. Alternative Revenue Sources for Water operating Fund (Staff will ask for Water Board to provide input into alternative revenue possibilities)  
Staff Contact: Barb McGrane (303)651-8358, [barb.mcgrane@ci.longmont.co.us](mailto:barb.mcgrane@ci.longmont.co.us)
  - b. Windy Gap Firing Project Update (Staff will provide a verbal update to Water Board regarding this effort)  
Staff Contact: Ken Huson (303)651-8340, [ken.huson@ci.longmont.co.us](mailto:ken.huson@ci.longmont.co.us)
  - c. Flood Recovery Updates (Staff will provide a verbal update to Water Board regarding these efforts)  
Staff Contact: Ken Huson (303)651-8814, [ken.huson@ci.longmont.co.us](mailto:ken.huson@ci.longmont.co.us)

9. ITEMS FROM BOARD

- a. Review of Major Project Listing and Items Tentatively Scheduled for Future Board Meetings.

10. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS AND WATER BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

11. ITEMS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS

- Cash-in-Lieu Review (March, June, September, December)

12. ADJOURN

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If you need special assistance to participate in a Water Board meeting, please contact Cindy Sater at (303) 651-8817 in advance of the meeting to make arrangements.

# **WATER BOARD MINUTES**

**October 20, 2014**

**Service Center Conference Room  
1100 S. Sherman Street  
Longmont, CO 80501**

## **REGULAR MEETING**

The October 20, 2014 meeting of the Longmont Water Board was called to order by Chairman Bruning at 3:00 p.m. at the Service Center Water Conference Room.

### **1. ROLL CALL**

Board Members Present: John Bruning, John Caldwell, Renee Davis, Dave Swenson and Todd Williams

City Staff Members Present: Ken Huson, Wes Lowrie, Nelson Tipton, and Cindy Sater

Council Liaison Present: Mayor Dennis L. Coombs arrived at 3:05 p.m.

### **2. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MONTH'S MINUTES**

**Motion was made by Board member Caldwell to approve Water Board's September 15, 2014 minutes as written; motion was seconded by Board member Swenson. Motion was passed unanimously 5-0.**

### **3. WATER STATUS REPORT**

On behalf of the Water Commissioner, staff member, Wes Lowrie, gave the current water status report. The Lyons gage at 1:15 p.m. today was 58 cfs with an historical average of 36 cfs on this date. Ralph Price Reservoir at Button Rock Preserve was at 6,385.3 feet equaling 13,132 acre feet, down just over 3,000 acre feet. There are no calls on the St. Vrain Creek or South Platte River. Reservoirs in the St. Vrain system were 75 percent full on September 30th. There is currently 55 cfs being released from Ralph Price Reservoir.

### **4. PUBLIC INVITED TO BE HEARD AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

There was no public in attendance.

## **5. AGENDA REVISIONS AND SUBMISSION OF DOCUMENTS**

Nelson Tipton submitted copies of water related Senate Legislative Bills A-F related to Agenda Item 7A.

## **6. DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY**

There were no development activities requiring Water Board action this month.

Mayor Coombs arrived at 3:05 p.m.

## **7. GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **A. 2015 Guiding Water Principles**

Staff member, Nelson Tipton presented current legislative information noting that the 2015 legislative session will begin January 7, 2015. Water Resources legislative review staff and Water Board had no additional principles to add to the existing Guiding Water Principles. Staff recommended that the 2015 Guiding Water Principles be approved the same as they were in 2014. The 2015 Guiding Water Principles are tentatively scheduled to be presented to City Council by Assistant City Manager, Sandi Seader in December 2014. The Guiding Water Principles allow City Council, Water Board and staff to better evaluate how water related bills would impact the City of Longmont.

**Motion was made by Board member Caldwell and seconded by Board member Davis to recommend forwarding the 2015 Guiding Water Principles to City Council with no changes or additions from 2014. Motion passed 5-0.**

Staff member, Ken Huson commented that the draft Colorado Water Plan is available on the Colorado Water Conservation Board's (CWCB) web site. CWCB will present it to the Governor later this year, then one year will be allowed for review and comment on the draft plan after that time. The topic will be added to Water Board's agenda to discuss during the comment period. Staff member Tipton discussed the upcoming Senate Bills A-F with Water Board and the effects that they might have on Longmont water supplies.

### **B. EPA "Waters of the US" Proposed Rule**

Staff member, Ken Huson reviewed with Water Board the draft Council Communication and resolution regarding the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Army Corps of Engineers proposed rule defining the scope of the waters protected under the Clean Water Act, "Waters of the US". The proposed resolution requests that the EPA consult on an ongoing basis with water

providers, utilities and national scientific and educational water agencies to ensure that the proposed rule does not unduly impede the City's operation. Ken explained that the intent of this proposed rule is to clarify and simplify the definition of the Waters of the US. However, the proposed rule has elevated concern by a number of different agencies including the Colorado Water Congress and the Small Business Administration regarding the potential for this proposed rule to expand federal regulatory oversight thereby potentially increasing costs to agricultural interests, municipalities, and water providers.

**A motion was made by Board member Williams for Water Board to recommend to City Council to approve the resolution in the form substantially presented. Board member Caldwell seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.**

## **8. ITEMS FROM STAFF**

### **A. Windy Gap Firing Project Update**

Staff member Huson shared the progress of the Windy Gap Firing Project with Water Board. The project is moving forward now that the draft carriage contract has been prepared and advertised in local newspapers. Once the carriage contract has been approved the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation can issue a Record of Decision (ROD). This will allow the Army Corps of Engineers to apply for a 404 permit for construction of the reservoir. All of the environmental impact statements have been completed in the past. During the next six months Water Board will be asked to recommend to City Council the level of participation for Longmont in the design phase of the Windy Gap Project. Staff member Huson explained the changes in the carriage contract from the previous version and operational aspects of how the Windy Gap water will tie in with the Colorado Big Thompson system.

Board member Caldwell commented that Water Board will need to make sure Longmont firm's up its Windy Gap water supply.

## **9. ITEMS FROM BOARD**

### **A. Review of Major Project Listing & Items Tentatively Scheduled for Future Board Meetings**

Water Board's major project listing included in the packet was reviewed.

Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District's Fall Water User's Meeting will be held on November 5, 2014. Staff will forward the meeting notification when they receive it.

Chairman Bruning notified Water Board that he will not be able to attend the November 17, 2014 meeting.

**10. ITEMS FROM COUNCIL**

Comments on the EPA "Water of the US" proposed rule were discussed with Water Board by staff member Huson during presentation of Agenda Item 7B.

**11. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS AND WATER BOARD CORRESPONDENCE**

Informational items were included in the Water Board packet.

**12. ADJOURN**

There being no further business to come before Water Board, Chairman Bruning asked for a motion for adjournment.

**A motion for adjournment was made by Board member Caldwell; the motion was seconded by Board member Swenson. Motion passed 5-0.**

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Bruning, at 4:25 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Longmont Water Board will be held on November 17, 2014, at 3:00 p.m. at the Service Center, 1100 South Sherman Street, Longmont, CO 80501.

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**John Bruning, Water Board Chair**

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**Date**

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**Cindy Sater, Recording Secretary**

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**Date**

# **WATER BOARD COMMUNICATION**

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**Meeting Date:** November 17, 2014

**Item Number:** 6

**Type of Item:** Development Activity

**From:** Wes Lowrie, Water Resources Technician, (303) 651-8814  
[wes.lowrie@ci.longmont.co.us](mailto:wes.lowrie@ci.longmont.co.us)

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As the Board will recall, City Council approved Ordinance O-2012-73 on October 23, 2012 which requires Water Board action during annexation review and when further raw water deficit satisfaction is required pursuant to a particular development activity. Listed below are two development activity categories; Development Activity Requiring Water Board Action and Development Activity Submitted for Water Board Information Only.

- 6a Development Activity Requiring Water Board Action
  - i) None
- 6b Development Activity Submitted for Water Board Information Only
  - i) None



# **WATER BOARD COMMUNICATION**

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**Meeting Date:** November 17, 2014

**Item Number:**

**Subject:** Potential New Water Utility Revenue Options

**Type of Item:** Items from Staff

**From:** **Dale Rademacher, Director of Public Works & Natural Resources, 303-651-8355**  
**Barbara McGrane, PWNR Business Services & Strategic Planning Manager, 303-651-8358**  
**Becky Doyle, Utilities Financial Analyst, 303-651-8379**  
**Bob Allen, PWNR Operations Manager, 303-774-3709**

**Suggested Action:** Participate in interactive presentation

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On September 16, 2014, staff presented the Integrated Treated Water Supply Master Plan (ITWSMP) to City Council. The primary goal of the ITWSMP is to identify future capital needs for the water utility. Specifically, the ITWSMP identifies \$215 million dollars in capital needs over the next twenty years (2014 to 2033). The following four major cost categories were identified for the 20 year planning horizon:

1. Asset Renewal (\$114 million)
2. Risk Reduction (\$7 million)
3. Flood Recovery (\$17 million)
4. Future Demand (\$77 million)

The next step in the planning process includes identifying a financial plan that funds the future water utility needs with the least impact on customers. Prior to bringing detailed financial plans including rate options for Council consideration, staff was asked by Council to identify any new potential revenue opportunities.

Staff presented several potential revenue generating options to Council on October 21, 2014. Council provided feedback on their willingness to further study each of the options for possible implementation. Some of the revenue generating opportunities fall within the purview of the Water Board. Staff would like to review these options for additional feedback.



# **WATER BOARD COMMUNICATION**

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**Item Number:** 9a

**Subject:** Review of Major Projects Listing and Items Tentatively Scheduled  
for Future Board Meetings

**Type of Item:** Informational

**From:** Water Board

**Suggested Action:** N/A

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Attached is a copy of the most recent Water Board project status report. Please note the report now includes expected future review date information for each item.



## WATER BOARD PROJECT STATUS REPORT

	<u>ITEM</u>	<u>MOST RECENT WATER BOARD REVIEW DATE</u>	<u>PROJECTED NEXT WATER BOARD REVIEW DATE</u>	<u>MOST RECENT ACTION TAKEN AND/OR PROPOSED FUTURE ACTION</u>
1	Union Reservoir Enlargement Land Acquisition Program	December 20, 2010	As Needed	Acquisition of Bogott property December 2010.
2	Water Supply and Drought Management Plan	April 21, 2014	April 20, 2015	2013 Plan approved by City Council on May 7, 2013. Recommended Sustainable Conservation Level be followed.
3	Windy Gap Firing Project	November 17, 2014	December 15, 2014	Final EIS Release November 30, 2011, Grand County 1041 Permit issued on December 4, 2012.
4	Water Legislation & Guiding Water Principles	October 20, 2014	January 26, 2015	Review of current 2014 legislation issues presented and discussed.
5	Cash-In-Lieu Review	September 15, 2014	December 15, 2014	Currently at \$10,8000 per Acre-Foot. Resolution R-2014-51.
6	Button Rock Preserve & Forest Stewardship	March 17, 2014	January 26, 2015	2014 Annual update was presented to Water Board on March 17, 2014.

Tentative Future Event Schedule	
Event	Date

Water Board Member Terms

John Caldwell - 2015  
 John Bruning - 2016  
 Todd Williams - 2017  
 David Swenson - 2018  
 Renee Davis - 2019

Updated: November 12, 2014

# **WATER BOARD COMMUNICATION**

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**Meeting Date:** November 17, 2014

**Item Number:** 10

**Type of Item:** Informational Items & Water Board Correspondence

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Attached are information items and Water Board correspondence.



State Public Information Officer  
Petra Barnes Walker, 720-544-2808

## **Colorado's NRCS Snow Survey and Water Forecasting Program Continues Snowpack Measurement at All Monitoring Sites in 2015**

**Denver, CO- October 23, 2014** – Elise Boeke, Acting State Conservationist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Colorado recently announced the sustained maintenance and viability of the Snow Survey and Water Forecasting program (SSWF) despite continued federal budget cuts. As a result of Colorado's cooperative network, the SSWF Program is able to sustain all desired manually monitored snow courses within the state this winter.

*"This is not only great news but also a testament to the effectiveness and necessity of partnerships," shares Boeke. "Without the natural resource partners who form the program's cooperative network many manually monitored snow courses may have been discontinued."*

During the last year, NRCS worked diligently with the existing cooperative network and called upon new partnerships to be formed. In 2014, of the 97 total active snow courses in Colorado, 38 were measured by cooperators. This year eight cooperators have pledged to support an additional 14 manually monitored sites bringing the total of snow courses measured by partners to 52 (that's 55%) with no cost to the NRCS.

The mission of the NRCS snow survey program is to provide western states and Alaska with information on future water supplies. Trained personnel collect and NRCS staff analyzes snowpack depth and water equivalent data at nearly 956 manual snow courses in the United States including the sites in Colorado. This allows NRCS to forecast annual water availability, spring runoff, and summer stream flows. NRCS, formerly known as the Soil Conservation Service (SCS), has managed the snow survey and water supply forecasting program since the early 1930's. NRCS also collects data using SNOpack TELelemetry (SNOTEL) technology which is an automated system that uses meteorburst communications to relay information about the depth and water content of the snowpack, precipitation, and air temperatures to a central computer facility.

For additional information about NRCS and the NRCS Snow Survey and Water Forecasting Program, please visit <http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov>.

**-end-**

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